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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/697,027

10/31/2003

Kazuo Okada

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EXAMINER

HSU, RYAN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/21/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/697,027	Applicant(s) OKADA, KAZUO	
	Examiner RYAN HSU	Art Unit 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 April 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

In response to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 filed on 4/30/2010. Claim 20 has been amended and claims 20-23 are pending in the instant application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claims 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miur et al. (US 2005/0192090 A1) and Uchiyama et al. (US 6,638,165 A) and further in view of Moriyama et al. (US 2003/0166417 A1).**

Regarding claims 20, Miur et al. teaches a gaming machine comprising: a variable display device for variably displaying symbols (*see [0006-0012]*). Additionally, Muir discloses a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device wherein the front display device includes a transparent liquid crystal display panel through which the variable display device is able to be seen (*see element 16 of Fig. 8*). This is shown through Muir's incorporation of light transmitting symbol which can appear through the transparent LCD (light crystal display panel) device or may display symbols in place of the symbols on the variable display device (*see Figs. 6-7 and the related description thereof, [paragraph [0011, 0018, 0022-0029], [0051-0053]*). Additionally, Muir teaches the display device to incorporate a light guiding plate

Art Unit: 3714

between the variable display device and the liquid crystal panel, the light guiding plate made up of a light transparent panel for guiding light emitted from a light source situation lateral to the light guiding plate to the entire of the transparent liquid crystal display panel, the light guiding plate provided with an opening in an area at which the symbols of the variable display device are displayed through the transparent liquid crystal display panel so as to decrease obstacles between the transparent liquid crystal display panel and the variable display device in order to ensure visibility of the symbols variably displayed on the variable display device (*see paragraph [0014-0017]*). Finally, Muir teaches a transparent liquid crystal display panel, the diffusion sheet and the light guiding plate to be arranged in a facially-opposed sequential manner such that the diffusion sheet [76] is disposed between the transparent LCD panel [50] and the light guiding plate [64,66] and the light guiding plate [64, 66] is disposed between the diffusion sheet [76] and the variable display device [18] (*see Fig. 8 and the related description thereof*). Additionally Muir teaches a plate that is disposed between the transparent liquid crystal display panel and the variable display device. The light guiding plate can be made up of a light transparent panel forming an area in an area in which the symbols on the variable display can be displayed through the transparent liquid crystal display panel so as to decrease obstacles between the transparent liquid crystal display panel and the variable display device to increase visibility of the symbols variably displayed on the variable display device (*see LCD panel[50] and diffusion sheet [76] and light guiding plate [64], [66] of Fig. 8 and the related description thereof*). Additionally, Muir teaches an illuminating layer in the form of a backlighting arrangement including a transparent panel [85] which includes a pair of illuminating elements [86] that are used to further enhance the display device (*see paragraph [0066-0067]*). Muir teaches that the illuminating

Art Unit: 3714

layer forms a light guiding plate that provides an opening in an area in which the symbols on the variable display device are displayed through the transparent lcd display so as to decrease obstacles between the transparent liquid crystal display panel and the variable display device in order to ensure visibility of the symbols. However, Miur is silent with respect to teaching symbols from to variably move about the screen and incorporating a lens for guiding the light emitted from a light source.

In an analogous gaming patent, Uchiyama teaches another example of a gaming machine that comprises two displays that are placed one in front of the other. Uchiyama teaches that one display is a mechanical or physical reel system while the other is video display device (*see Fig. 8(a-c) and the related description thereof*). Uchiyama teaches in addition to the features of Muir a video display device is capable of displaying light transmitting symbols that can variably move about the screen (*see col. 12: ln 21-col. 13: ln 40*). One would be motivated to incorporate the features of Uchiyama with that of Miur in order to create a more stimulating visual experience for the user. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Muir with that of Uchiyama as it would not change the physical capabilities of Muir invention but would add an element that is known in the arts as creating a more visually stimulating experience.

In a related gaming patent, Moriyama et al. teaches a game machine display method that enhances the image-forming section on a display by disposing a collimator lens and a Fresnel lens to the back side of an image forming section which can provide the expected benefit of focusing the light to enhance the image while reducing the required amount of light for a visible image and allow for a thinner gaming machine to be created. One would be motivated to

Art Unit: 3714

incorporate the teachings of a lens for guiding the light into a light guiding plate through the teachings of Moriyama with that of Muir to provide an enhanced image to the user. A lens is a well known method for directing and focusing light that yields predictable results of changing and directing the available light to brighten and enhance an image. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the features of Moriyama with that of Muir and Uchiyama to implement a lens that direct lights into an illuminating layer of a gaming machine.

Regarding claims 21-23, Muir teaches a gaming machine where the diffusion sheet disposed between the transparent liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate, the diffusion sheet disposed between the transparent liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate, the diffusion sheet for diffusing the light toward the transparent liquid crystal display panel, the light having been guided by the light guiding plate, the diffusion sheet provided with an opening corresponding to the opening of the light guiding plate so that the symbols on the variable display device are displayed on the transparent liquid crystal display panel through the opening of the light guiding plate (*see Fig. 8 and the related description thereof*). Additionally, Muir teaches a gaming machine that includes a reflection plate disposed between the light guiding plate and the variable display device, the reflection plate for reflecting the light on the transparent liquid crystal display panel, the light having been emitted from the light source to the light guiding plate, the light having been emitted from the light source to the light guiding plate, the reflection plate provided with an opening corresponding to the opening of the light guiding plate so that the symbols on the variable display device are displayed on the transparent liquid crystal display panel through the opening of the light guiding plate (*see*

Art Unit: 3714

element [78, 64, 60, and 80] of Fig. 8 and the related description thereof). Furthermore, Muir teaches a variable display unit that contains all the limitations of the instant claims however they are not necessarily in the direct order in which the current limitations have specified such as an illumination part disposed between the rear face of the light guiding plate. Such differences do not effect the effect between the prior art and the instant invention. For example, having a light source layer either before or after or lateral to the light guiding plate would not affect the overall output or create a novel appearance created by such a design with respect to the illumination plate that would produce an unexpected result. Therefore it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to one of routine skill in the art to select where the light source layer would occur. Additionally, the instant claims are directed towards attributes that are inherent with a light guiding plate. When a solid object is placed in front of a lighted area, only the places where an opening exists will light be projected out of the source. Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to produce the expected result that using a light guiding plate would allow for the light to reveal the reels would be projected to provide the user the ability to see the reels of a gaming machine.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Art Unit: 3714

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be direct to Ryan Hsu whose telephone number is (571)-272-7148. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hotaling can be reached at (571)-272-4437.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 1-866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RH

June 5, 2010

/John M Hotaling II/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3714